

Amendment A

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Attorney Docket No.: 15215.2

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a vehicle platform including a front, a rear, opposed sides corresponding to a length, a top, and an underside, the vehicle platform being operable to support a vehicle chassis to be straightened;  
at least one anchor attachable to the platform and operable to secure the vehicle chassis to the vehicle platform;  
a downwardly opening carriage track positioned on the underside of the vehicle platform and extending along the length of the vehicle platform;  
a carriage assembly movably received by the carriage track and positioned on the underside of the platform; and  
a pulling tower assembly mounted on the carriage assembly.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. The bench according to claim 1 wherein the pulling tower assembly is pivotally mounted on the carriage assembly.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. The bench according to claim 2 wherein the pulling tower assembly includes a pulling tower attached to a tower arm and the carriage assembly includes a pulling tower assembly positioning mechanism engaging the tower arm, the tower arm extending between the pulling tower and the carriage assembly and mounting the pulling tower to the carriage assembly, the positioning mechanism being operable to hold the pulling tower in a transport position in which the tower arm is substantially perpendicular to the bench.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

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4. The bench according to claim 2 wherein the pulling tower assembly includes a pulling tower attached to a tower arm and the carriage assembly includes a tower positioning mechanism engaging the tower arm, the tower arm extending between the pulling tower and the carriage assembly and mounting the pulling tower to the carriage assembly, the positioning mechanism including a pawl follower slidably mounted on the tower arm and a notch plate mounted on the carriage assembly and defining a notch for receiving the pawl follower, so that the tower positioning mechanism holds the pulling tower in a transport position in which the tower arm is substantially perpendicular to the bench when the pawl follower is received in the notch.
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[Please] amend [claim 6 as follows:]

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6. The bench according to claim 5 wherein the carriage assembly includes a carriage body having a lock pin therein and a locking mechanism comprising a lock pin movably received in the lock pin opening, a lock pin biasing member received in the lock pin opening and engaging the lock pin to bias the lock pin into an extended locking position in which an operator applying force to the pulling tower can overcome the force of the pawl biasing member to pivot the pulling tower relative to the carriage assembly.

[Please] amend [claim 14 as follows:]

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14. The bench according to claim 1 wherein the carriage assembly includes a carriage body having a lock pin opening therein and a locking mechanism comprising a lock pin movably received in the lock pin opening, a lock pin biasing member received in the lock pin opening and engaging the lock pin to bias the lock pin into an extended locking position.

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B3 [ Please amend claim 15 as follows: ]

15. The bench according to claim 14 wherein the platform comprises a bottom deck having the carriage track mounted thereon and defining a plurality of pin lock apertures operable to receive the lock pin.

B4 [ Please amend claim 26 as follows: ]

26. A vehicle straightening bench for applying force to vehicle chassis and restore vehicle chassis to desired configurations, the bench comprising:
- a vehicle platform including a front, a rear, opposed sides corresponding to a length, a top and a bottom, the vehicle platform being operable to support a vehicle chassis to be straightened, and the vehicle platform defining a plurality of anchoring apertures;
  - at least one anchor attachable to the platform and operable to secure the vehicle chassis to the platform;
  - a carriage track mounted on the platform and extending along the length of the platform;
  - a carriage assembly movably received by the carriage track;
  - an elongated tower arm having a mounting end attached to the carriage assembly and a distal end opposite the mounting end;
  - a pulling tower attached to the distal end of the tower arm; and
  - a force arm including a substantially fixed end attached to the pulling tower and a free end operable to attach to the vehicle platform at a selected one of a plurality of attachment locations.